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THE BRUSHY, COOLEY, CYPRESS CREEK

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Boy, if that Soil Erosion
work in North Louisiana
keeps on holding the soil
on the hills, the water is
going to be so clear down
here on the river that I'll
be able to catch all the
fish my bill can hold!!!

NEWS !!

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
SOIL EROSION SERVICE
MINIEN, LA.

27,000 SQUARE MILES SERVED BY SOIL EROSION SERVICE PROJECT # 15

The two Soil Erosion Service watershed projects located in Louisiana on two great drainage systems of the continent are preparing to serve and to furnish data on the erosion of 27,000 square miles of territory in the States of Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. At the present time there is a 55,000 acre demonstration project located on Cooley & Brushy Creeks in Northwestern Louisiana. These Creeks in Webster Parish are tributaries of the Red River drainage system which drains Northern Texas, Southern Oklahoma, Southwestern Arkansas, and Western Louisiana. Not content with this great drainage basin, there is located a 45,000 acre project on Cypress Creek in North Central Louisiana. Cypress Creek is a tributary of the vast drainage basin of the Ouachita River of Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

In order that we should not cover too much territory in our recommendations we decided that we must limit our service to areas comparable to our conditions. After considerable thought we have come to the conclusion that we cannot undertake any areas in which the average rainfall, temperatures, topography, soils, vegetation, and farming practices are not very closely related or identical. After thorough research we found that approximately 5,000 square miles in Northeastern Texas, 1,000 square miles in Southeastern Oklahoma, 2,000 square miles in Southwestern Arkansas, and 7,000 square miles in Northeastern Louisiana fit the rigid requirements above and are applicable to our Cooley and Brushy Creek areas. On further comparison we find that 5,000 square miles in Southern Arkansas and 7,000 square miles in North Central Louisiana are almost identical in requirements to the Cypress Creek area.

These 27,000 square miles have, in general, fine sandy loam soils of the Coastal Plains. These soils are sandy, normally with friable subsoils which are red, yellow, or gray in color. This great area has an average annual rainfall of 45 to 55 inches, elevations ranging from 150 to 450 feet above sea level, a mean annual temperature of about 65 degrees, and vegetation consisting of various mixtures of Short Leaf and Loblolly pine with various hardwoods. The area in general is rolling to hilly, and erosion stalks unhindered over the fields. The agricultural practices in vogue in this vast empire of 27,000 square miles, 17,280,000 acres, are directly comparable to the practices in our areas. They raise cotton!

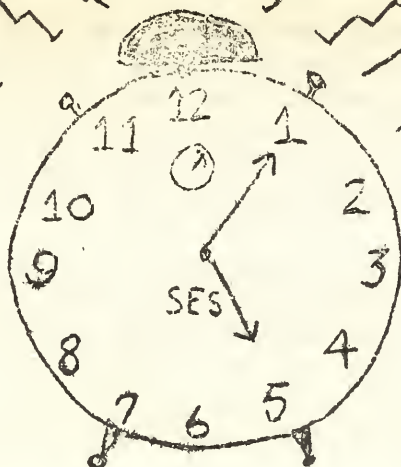
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TIMELY



TOPICS

This is the second of a series of news articles issued at regular intervals by the Soil Erosion Service for the benefit of the farmer. Its purpose is to present current topics of interest. Our primary object is to put before you the latest and best news available. Your problems are our problems.

FEED CROPS can still be planted on fertile soil if rain falls within the next week. The dry weather has caused an enormous shortage of feed in this area, as well as throughout the United States. Thus feed crops of any nature will be badly needed. Forage crops, of course, will be the only kind possible to plant this late in the season. The planting of these crops is somewhat risky, however, due to the possibility of continued drought or early frost; consequently, no great expense should be involved.

Forage crops that are planted now are sudan grass, Laredo soy beans, early amber sorghum, and early varieties of peas. (For further information, see your County Agent.)

WINTER COVER CROPS: Hairy vetch ranks at the top of the list as a winter legume for northern Louisiana. It will be grown in combination with oats on practically every farm in the soil erosion project in Webster and Lincoln Parishes. It not only ranks high as a winter legume for soil improvement, but when planted with oats it is one of the best plants for the prevention of erosion. In addition to adding humus, which puts the soil in a better mechanical condition, hairy vetch adds nitrogen at the rate of about 45 pounds per acre, when turned under as green manure. The combination of hairy vetch and oats will provide temporary pasture for winter and spring grazing for all classes of live stock. When not used as green manure crops, the oats and vetch give new hay in late spring and early summer to supplement exhausted forage supplies from the preceding year. Due to the present drought, this hay will be badly needed next spring.

PASTURE SODDING, to Bermuda grass will begin as soon as moisture conditions permit on those farms which are to have improved pasture. Barbed wire for improved pasture and forest has arrived. Farmers are asked to get necessary posts ready as soon as possible, so that they may construct fences as soon as their contracts have been approved, thereby making it possible to distribute lime.

TERRACING work will soon begin. We have an enormous amount of work to do and a short time in which to do it. Farmers are asked to give their cooperation in furnishing power. Terracing plows, Corsicana graders, and fresnos will be available to those who have signed cooperative agreements, but power is limited. If you are interested in having your farm terraced, come in to see us and get your name on the list. No farms will be overlooked.

"POTASH HUNGER", or cotton rust, is now appearing in damaging amounts in many cotton fields in North Louisiana. The symptoms of the rust are that the leaves turn yellow, then bronze brown, and finally fall off. The top bolls do not mature, and in many cases the middle bolls open only partially. Since such plants very seldom set a top crop, the yield is, therefore, seriously reduced. The lint is badly damaged, resulting in shorter and an inferior quality of cotton.

Rust, often confused with wilt, is due to the deficiency of available potash. Wilt is a disease caused by a specific organism and can be controlled by the use of wilt-resistant varieties of cotton and improved cultural practices.

The hammock lands and alluvial soils in the hill region of North Louisiana are very deficient in potash and should receive higher amounts of this mineral than the uplands, which are not as deficient. Experimental results obtained at the Louisiana Experiment Station indicate a ratio of 4-8-8 profitable for the hammock lands and the first bottoms, and a ratio of 4-8-6 for the uplands.

FOREST FIRES: The continued drought has increased the danger of fire to such an extent that a close watch must be kept to prevent them from starting. Extreme care must be taken not to throw lighted cigarettes into parched grass. All camp fires should be carefully extinguished before leaving them. The burning of forests causes untold damage to timber and destroys game and wild life. Always remember this:

ONE TREE WILL MAKE A MILLION MATCHES
ONE MATCH WILL DESTROY A MILLION TREES!!!

GARDEN CROPS. Don't forget the fall garden. It requires very little time and expense and is of inestimable value. The dry weather may prevent planting on the hillsides, but most every farmer has a small damp place down by the creek that can be cleaned off and planted to turnips, bush or "bunch" beans, shallots, Irish potatoes, cabbage, and mustard. Special care must be taken not to bury any green vegetation immediately before planting. Even with plenty of rain, heat from the decaying vegetation will burn the small plants. A small amount of 4-8-6 or 4-10-7 fertilizer drilled in before planting will increase the growth considerably. Be sure and plant all seeds in the drill as it aids in cultivation and control of insects and disease. Above all, prepare a good firm seed bed, well pulverized, and not over four inches in height.

POULTRY POINTERS: A good egg is hard to find in the grocery store and markets during the hot summer months. This is often the fault of both the retailer and the producer. Eggs should never be displayed in the open hot air on the store counters at this time of the year. They must be kept in the ice boxes. The producer should gather eggs twice a day and store in some cool place. Marketing eggs should take place at least three times a week and more often if not kept under refrigeration.

Other important factors in the production of a good egg that will "stand up" are feed and the removal of the cocks from the hens. Hens bred for egg production, and which are free from parasites, will respond with profit at the present price of eggs, if given a balanced ration. Such eggs will keep longer, and are of better quality than those produced at the rate of one or two a week on grass and a few insects. Fertile eggs will begin to incubate as soon as laid in summer temperature. This can be eliminated by the removal of cocks.

GULLY CONTROL WORK is moving forward rapidly. A large group of college men, representing the various colleges of the state, have been engaged in this work. Practically all are graduates of this year's class. They are, however, doing regular manual labor in constructing check dams in gullies. These men are working on the basis of a ten-week training program for the purpose of acquainting themselves with the soil erosion program in preparation for work in this project or others, if they are needed.

An ECW camp will be established at Minden on October 1 for supplying additional labor for gully control work.

SALAMANDER AND MOLE CONTROL: News spread among the farmers of the areas that a campaign will be waged against moles and salamanders for the purpose of ridding farms of this serious pest has been so well received that something might be said here in regard to the program. We wish to enlist the aid of every farmer in the areas in putting on a concerted drive to destroy these pests. Traps and poison will be available soon. The best time to do this work is during the fall and winter, beginning after a change in weather has occurred. At these times the animals are most active, as will be noted by the conspicuous abundance of their mounds and tunnels. Their increased activities make poisoning and trapping methods more effective.

WAITING LIST OF FARMS: There are approximately 1,200 farms in the BBushy, Cooley, and Cypress Creek Watersheds. These farms are being mapped as rapidly as possible, but the job is not an easy one and, moreover, cannot be accomplished overnight. If your farm has not been visited, be patient. There is a long waiting list already. You can get service sooner by coming in to see us.

